

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 122771

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R 110050Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PFOR, UR

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON ACCESS TO EMBASSY
MOSCOW

1. COLUMN BY EVANS AND NOVAK PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON POST
JUNE 10, ENTITLED "DETENTE AND SOVIET REPRESSION" IS BEING
SENT TO EMBASSY BY WIRELESS FILE.

2. FOLLOWING IS DEPARTMENT'S CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE (NO
QUESTIONS WERE ASKED IN PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 10):

Q: IS IT TRUE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN INTENSIFICATION OF
HARASSMENT OF SOVIET CITIZENS AND OTHERS SEEKING ACCESS
TO OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, DESPITE OUR PROTESTS?

A: THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN A NUMBER OF SUCH INCIDENTS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 122771

WE HAVE TAKEN UP AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE UP THESE

MATTERS WITH THE SOVIETS BOTH IN MOSCOW AND IN WASHINGTON.

Q: HAVE THE SOVIETS STEPPED UP REFUSAL OF EMIGRATION VISAS TO SOVIET CITIZENS SEEKING TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES?

A: NO. THE SOVIET REFUSAL RATE HAS NOT INCREASED. THE NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED FOR EMIGRATION TO THE U.S. HAS BEEN RISING, ALTHOUGH THE SITUATION IS STILL NOT SATISFACTORY. WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS ON THEIR BEHALF.

Q: HAS HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS VISITING THE SOVIET UNION WHO HAVE SOUGHT CONTACT WITH SOVIET CITIZENS INCREASED?

A: IT IS NOT OUR IMPRESSION THAT THERE HAS BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THIS SORT OF HARASSMENT.

Q: WILL THE QUESTION OF ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND THE CASE OF EMIGRATION OF CLOSE RELATIVES TO THE UNITED STATES BE TAKEN UP BY THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE VISITS MOSCOW?

A: WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT BOTH THESE QUESTIONS, AND AS I SAID WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THEIR RECTIFICATION.

Q: WHY DO THE SOVIETS TAKE THESE MEASURES DESPITE DETENTE?

A: WE CAN'T SPECULATE ON SOVIET MOTIVES, BUT WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK RECTIFICATION.

ABOVE GUIDANCE TO BE USED ON AN IF-ASKED BASIS ONLY. SISCO

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